

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF
18 October 2000

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program-Botswana

1. Purpose. To provide a summary of the FAO In-Country Training Program (ICT) and facilities available in Botswana to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. Facts.

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour length: 12 months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: January through January and July through July of the following year.

(3) Program Description – Up to two FAOs conduct ICT each year in Botswana. FAOs work under the supervision of the Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) Botswana. Among their duties at the ODC, FAOs coordinate joint/combined exercises with the host nation armed forces. FAOs conduct a minimum of 3 months of regional travel in coordination with their chain of command. Since FAOs serving in this Anglophone country are typically French linguists, they must pursue an aggressive language training program using the Alliance Française, private tutoring and self-study.

(4) Language Instruction Availability: The FAO maintains French language proficiency through travel in Francophone Africa and by joining the Alliance Française de Gaborone.

(5) Prerequisites - CPT or MAJ; branch immaterial

b. Property:

(1) Government:

(a) Vehicles: The station current has two FAO vehicles a 1997 Jeep Cherokee and a 1991 Toyota Land Cruiser. These vehicles are for use during regional travel. They are Government property and for official use only. They are *not* a substitute for personal transportation.

(b) Furniture: The FAO residences are considered fully furnished, to include major appliances. However, in the event of large families, it is advisable to coordinate any special needs, i.e., additional beds, wardrobes, etc.

(c) Office: Each residence has an office with a computer, for official use, complete with printer and modem. Internet access is available in Botswana for approximately \$200.00 for the entire year. Most Internet Service Providers (ISP) are accessible through the Internet. The office is also complete with a working library.

(2) Personal:

(a) POVs: It is highly recommended that all FAOs ship their POV. Each FAO is authorized shipment of one POV. A few considerations: there are no American auto dealerships in Botswana; most cars are right-hand drive; car repairs are expensive and car parts ordered for American-made cars can take weeks to arrive. There are Repair shops that work on American-made cars. Nissan, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Mercedes, BMW and Land Rover are all represented in Gaborone. Expect a 3-month transit time for POVs coming from the U.S. Unleaded fuel is available in Botswana. USAA does not insure vehicles in Botswana; however, the Embassy GSO can arrange coverage for you. Check with your transportation office for maximum shipping dimensions - you may incur a fee for shipping larger vehicles i.e., full excursion vans. Ensure your vehicle is road-ready before you ship it to Botswana – This will avoid many hassles while in-processing your vehicle here in Gaborone.

(b) Household Hold Goods (HHG): FAOs are normally authorized partial JFTR, since most furnishings and major appliances are provided. HouseHold Effects (HHE) arrive within 60 days. The FAO should bring only personal items, clothing, decorative items such as wall hangings, kitchen and gardening supplies, and entertainment items such as computers, stereos, and televisions. FAOs should bring dual-voltage small appliances and 220v to 110v transformers. Microwaves and Dishwashers are not provided in the FAO homes. The incoming FAO should contact the resident FAO for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage. Do not bring firearms without written permission from the embassy, handguns are illegal to possess in Botswana.

(c.) Housing: Each FAO has a 4-Bedroom House surrounded by a brick fence, electric gate, and is complete with an alarm system. Both houses have a large yard and approximately 10,000-gallon pool. The rooms are large and have adequate closet space. Most families hire a housekeeper and a gardener. Currently, the same gardener takes care of both the FAO homes. Housekeepers and Gardeners are fairly inexpensive. Contact your sponsor for more information. The in-bound FAO will move directly into their new residence. A welcome kit will be provided for the inbound FAO and family. The resident FAO will be the new family's sponsor.

d. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical

(a) The US Embassy Health Unit is staffed by one registered nurse and is supported by a part-time doctor. Several excellent physicians and specialists are available through the Gaborone Private Hospital, a first-rate facility. Tri-Care Europe covers medical service to active duty and family members. If possible, long term prescription items should be shipped from CONUS. In a serious emergency or in the case of serious illness U.S. personnel are taken to South Africa or evacuated to Europe for treatment.

(b) Routine dental care, such as crowns and root canals can be done in Gaborone; however, most U.S. government personnel go to South Africa for dental care. It is recommended to have dental needs taken care of prior to arrival at post.

(c) Pharmacies are well supplied with prescription medicines. However, persons on long term medication should bring their own products due to the high cost of most prescription medicines.

(d) No vaccinations are required for Botswana; however, travelers to other African countries are advised to be current in yellow fever, typhoid, measles, polio DPT (children), and tetanus. Gamma Globulin is recommended every six months for prevention of Hepatitis A and it is advisable to take the Hepatitis B vaccine as well. The Health Unit on an individual basis issues malaria prophylaxis.

(2) Schools

(a) All schools in Botswana begin the school year in late January and end in early December. Thirty-day breaks occur in April/May and August/September and a six-week break from early December to Mid January. Most schools require uniforms, which may be purchased locally. The school day begins at 7:00am for secondary schools and 7:45am for primary schools. Schools end at 12:30pm or 1:00pm, but extracurricular programs draw students for supervised activity in the afternoons.

(b) Most dependent school children attend Westwood School, a DoDDS accredited K-11 institution. Since they require one semester advance notification, FAOs must notify the Embassy administrative officer as soon as possible if a pupil wishes to apply for admission. School records indicating previous study should be included in correspondence. Children will be tested after arrival to determine entrance level.

(c) Secondary schooling is available in Gaborone. If this is required, contact the incumbent FAO for particulars. Boarding schools are also available at Government expense in South Africa and the United Kingdom.

(3) PX/Commissary - Not available.

e. Rater/Senior Rater: Chief Office of Defense Cooperation; Senior Rater: Chief, Foreign Area Officer Proponent Division, DAMO-SSF

f. FAO In Training/Programmed:

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CPT Paul Horlacher	0007-0107
CPT Andrew Overfield	0101-0201
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Department of State
Washington, DC 20521-2170

(2) Message- USODC GABORONE BC//FAO//

h. Phone #: ODC 011-267-353-982 Ext. 354/353/369 or
011-267-371-731

FAO Residence/Office –
MAJ Moore 011-267-563-514
CPT Horlacher 011-267-318-084

Embassy Unclassified Fax: 011-267-365-947

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CPT Horlacher: ldsfam7@botsnet.bw
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ODC Chief: odcgabs@botsnet.bw

3. Additional Information.

a. Entry requirements (NOTE: This information is subject to change. Recommend incoming FAOs check DoD 4500.54G, Foreign Area Clearance Guide and w/sponsor NLT 90 days before PCS). FAOs and their family members require Official (maroon) passports. FAOs and Family members will be processed for Diplomatic Passports upon

arrival. Visas are not required. Health/ immunization requirements are noted above. Do not ship Firearms.

b. Bring materials for completion of CGSC, also French language training materials.

c. Business clothing is Embassy attire. FAOs are authorized a Civilian Clothing Allowance and should apply after arrival on station. It is recommended to purchase clothing prior to coming to Botswana.

d. Business clothing is standard attire for the embassy. Class As and dress blues are required items. Bring all military clothing items needed.

e. FAO should ship available weight allowance of non-perishable consumables IAW the JTR.

f. Regional Travel Priorities:

Priority 1: Botswana, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Dem Rep of Congo, Kenya, and Senegal.

Priority 2: Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Cote d' Ivoire, Cameroon, Tanzania, Angola and/or Mozambique.

Priority 3: Uganda, Central African Rep, Ghana, Mali, Niger.

g. Banking:

Banks are available, however most mission personnel do their banking from stateside. ATMs are recently available to VISA cardholders. VISA is normally accepted in most countries in Africa. American Express and Master Card can be used in South Africa and a few other countries. Checks can be cashed at the Embassy with a daily limit of \$500.00 per day.

h. Shopping

There currently is no shopping mall in Gaborone. There are many locations where shopping complexes are available. For cloths shopping many mission personnel go to Rustenburg, South Africa (two hours away), or Johannesburg, South Africa (four hours away) to do their shopping. Rustenburg and Johannesburg have malls where many of the modern designer stores are represented.

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